

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Kids in Transportation Program – Portland International Jetport

The Kids in Transportation Program, located at Portland International Jetport, seeks to enhance the public's understanding about aviation as well as aviation-related careers. The "Kids in Transportation" title actually encompasses a variety of smaller programs and educates people of all ages about the aviation industry. While the events of September 11, 2001 have required Portland International Jetport to shift its focus elsewhere and to consequently focus less attention on educational outreach programs, approximately 700 children and 200 adults attended programming or visited Portland International Jetport in 2000 as a result of the Kids in Transportation Program.

Though people of all ages attend these programs, the majority of attendees are either in elementary or middle school. Much of what the program seeks to accomplish is to explain the nature of airports, flights, and how these things work in order to orient passengers and to alleviate or remove some of the fear passengers may have about flying for the first time.

Additionally, the program seeks to educate the general public about a number of careers that are available in the aviation industry. Periodic "Career Days" are scheduled for third graders at participating schools, and in the summer of 2001, 14 children attended an aviation career camp sponsored by the Kids in Transportation Program.

One of the most current and daunting obstacles, according to the coordinator of the program, is that despite concerted efforts to incorporate aviation-related programs (such as occasional "Career Days") in schools, guidance departments within Maine's public school system are not often accessible, supportive, or receptive to the inclusion of such programs. From the perspective of the coordinator, speaking in schools about aviation-related careers is one of the easiest and most evident ways to educate children who would not otherwise have any knowledge about the aviation industry. However, when that objective is hindered by unsupportive school officials, it becomes exceedingly difficult to achieve goals related to the implementation of educational aviation-related outreach programs.

Young Eagle Program – Wiscasset

Occasionally, the EAA coordinates the Young Eagle Program with Wiscasset Airport. Through this program, free airplane rides are provided to children ages 8-17.

APPENDIX C